

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Home

About

Saturday, December 14, 2024

If you don't watch out, bad things could happen to you.



Important end-of-year security reminder







UC does not send 1095-C or W-2 statements by email or text.

If you receive an email or text with a link or an attachment for viewing these statements, it is a phishing scam designed to gain private information.

Do not open attachments or click email links that claim to provide access to your 1095-C or W-2.

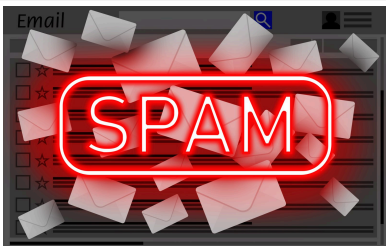
To access your electronic tax documents, always visit UCPATH online using a safe/known link.

(From a recent UCPATH email.)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:      

Labels: [email fraud](#), [UC](#)

False Positives



No one wants their email to be filled with spam. But it is possible for spam blockers to identify messages as spam, even when they are not, especially messages sent to multiple persons.

Yours truly has noted that various notifications from the UCLA Faculty Club are being blocked by at least one UCLA department's IT system. Even when he tells the blocking program to release the messages,

they often aren't released.

It seems likely that in order to block what may be malicious or fraudulent messages, messages that are desired are being lost. Unlike the past, where messages identified as spam can still be read in a spam folder, the new filters simply make them inaccessible. Below is an example from the Faculty Club.

Spam Policy

club@fc.ucla.edu

Spin the Dreidel Day! - Tuesday, December 10, 2024
2024-12-10 08:03

[Release](#) [Permit](#) [Block](#)

Although it appears one can tell the blocker to permit such messages to come through (or just release them), it somehow doesn't necessarily happen. What actually occurs when you try those options is that a message comes saying **"Your message has been processed; it will be delivered to your inbox if it passes security checks."** And then nothing happens.

And PS, it happens to messages from the UCLA Faculty Association:

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- [Faculty File Historic Academic Freedom Unfair Labor Practice Charges Against UC](#)
- [Union Letter to UC with Benefits Demands](#)
- [We Oppose Deprofessionalizing Librarians](#)
- [We Oppose AB-1418's Inadequate Protection from the Harms of Facial Recognition Tech](#)
- [We Oppose SB-1287's Restrictions on Protected Speech](#)

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 9. BONFIRE OF THE KNOWLEDGES \(PART 4\): Interpretation as Counterpower - 12/31/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 3: Letter from Current and Former Members of the MLA Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Rights and Responsibilities to MLA Executive Director and Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/30/2024](#)
- [MLA and BDS 2: Letter from former members of the MLA Executive Council to Current Executive Council on Blocking the Debate - 12/29/2024](#)

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UC Faculty Associations

- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

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- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

Topics

[UC](#) (1893) [politics](#) (1773) [UC Regents](#) (1765) [health care](#) (1319) [State Budget](#) (1214) [governor](#) (1060) [UC budget crisis](#) (917) [UC-Berkeley](#) (854) [diversity](#) (659) [pension](#) (644) [pensions](#) (588) [tuition](#) (519)

Spam Policy

newsletter@uclafa.org

UCLAFA Elections 2024-25: Vote for your new Executive Board!

2024-12-10 08:58

[Release](#) [Permit](#) [Block](#)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:



Labels: [Faculty Association at UCLA](#), [faculty center](#), [UCLA](#)

Friday, December 13, 2024

In the Money

From the [LA Times](#): *UCLA athletic director Martin Jarmond's contract extension that runs through June 30, 2029, calls for incremental raises rising to an annual salary of \$2.1 million. The contract, signed in May by recently departed chancellor Gene Block, took effect July 1 and superseded Jarmond's previous contract that was set to expire in the summer of 2026. As part of his new contract, he will receive \$1.55 million in Year 1, \$1.6 million in Year 2, \$1.8 million in Year 3, \$2 million in Year 4 and \$2.1 million in Year 5.*



Those amounts in the first two years represent significant raises over the \$1.25 million Jarmond was set to make this year and the \$1.31 million he would have made in 2025-26 under his previous contract...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/sports/ucla/story/2024-12-10/ucla-jarmond-contract>.

Gold Diggers of 1933 - "We'r...



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJOjTNuuEVw>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:



Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

An open and shut case



Yours truly came across this story in a recent edition of [Inside Higher Ed](#): *The University of Florida is opening its board retreats to the public after the Board of Trustees was accused of violating state law by essentially holding closed meetings, NPR affiliate WUFT reported. While board retreats are supposed to be public, in accordance with Florida's Sunshine Law, the UF governing board has met in secret quarters since 2018. Though the board gave notice of the meeting dates as*

required by law, the university did not provide the location of the retreats, which critics argue amount to conducting closed meetings...

Following critical coverage, UF spokesperson Steve Orlando told the NPR affiliate that board retreats are public and that the board's "intent has never been to close them." Going forward, the university will publish the location of such retreats ahead of time, he said.

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/12/09/university-florida-accused-sunshine-law-violations>.

Of course, California has similar laws requiring open meetings - with exceptions for certain topics such as personnel actions. When the UC Regents hold their retreats, they are open technically except for such topics. Unlike their other meetings, however, the retreats don't take

[admissions](#) (502) [athletics](#) (471) [CSU](#) (387) [transportation](#) (373) [UC-Davis](#) (363) [online education](#) (336) [ucrp](#) (294) [audio](#) (287) [UCOP](#) (286) [uc retirement](#) (284) [new hotel-conference center](#) (282) [UC enrollment](#) (276) [traffic](#) (271) [enrollment](#) (248) [UC-San Diego](#) (234) [community colleges](#) (228) [LAO](#) (209) [UC-Irvine](#) (174) [fund raising](#) (160) [UC-Santa Cruz](#) (145) [UC-Santa Barbara](#) (144) [UC-San Francisco](#) (138) [faculty center](#) (136) [controller](#) (135) [ballot propositions](#) (132) [UC-Riverside](#) (129) [CalPERS](#) (120) [faculty pay](#) (102) [Master Plan](#) (101) [UC-Merced](#) (101) [Yudof](#) (89) [UCRS retirement](#) (60) [parking](#) (59) [privatization](#) (59) [Faculty Association at UCLA](#) (57) [CalSTRS](#) (50) [UC Berkeley](#) (33) [copyright](#) (29) [campus climate survey](#) (28) [UCRS](#) (21) [Michigan Model](#) (18) [UC Merced](#) (17) [uc funding](#) (16) [State Contribution](#) (14) [UCOF](#) (14) [Regents](#) (13) [faculty recruitment](#) (12) [UC pay](#) (7) [graduate education](#) (6) [UC San Diego](#) (5) [UCpolitics](#) (3) [teaching evaluation](#) (3) [UC Irvine](#) (2) [UC Santa Cruz](#) (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (2)

▼ January (2)

[The governor and the 4th quarter.](#)

[Our New Year's Day Offering](#)

► 2024 (832)

► 2023 (828)

► 2022 (719)

► 2021 (710)

► 2020 (914)

► 2019 (671)

► 2018 (595)

► 2017 (666)

► 2016 (715)

► 2015 (765)

► 2014 (704)

► 2013 (776)

► 2012 (839)

► 2011 (738)

► 2010 (431)

► 2009 (12)

Contributors

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- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)

place on a campus where lots of folks can easily attend. Nor are they live-streamed, with the recordings available thereafter. In principle, anyone could have driven up to the UC Lake Arrowhead resort and attended the most recent retreat. From the Westside of LA, the drive would take about 2 hours.

So, yes, you can attend the open session. And you could bring your own recording device and make the recording public. No doubt that this meets the letter of the law. On the other hand, nothing would prevent the Regents from live-streaming the program and/or making a recording available. They just don't.





Were there open-session topics at, say, the retreat last September that were somehow especially sensitive? Below is the agenda:*

- Public Comment Period (30 minutes)
- Remarks of the Chair of the Board
- Remarks of the President of the University
- Healthcare Governance Overview
- Lunch
- Current and Future State of Artificial Intelligence

So why not use modern technology and make the proceedings more accessible? Seems like an open and shut case can be made for doing just that, even if the law doesn't require it.

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*<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/sept24/board9.4.24.pdf>. Note: You can phone in your public comments. When yours truly did so on one occasion, he was the only commenter.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:      

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Blame Game/Shame Game

From the [LA Times](#): *UCLA Police Chief John Thomas, who was blasted for serious security lapses and failing to protect students during a melee at a pro-Palestinian encampment last spring, has left his job at the university, the campus police department said Wednesday night. In a post on the social media platform X, the UCLA Police Department said that Thomas' last day with UCLA was Tuesday. UCLA*

Police Capt. Scott Scheffler will serve as interim police chief until a permanent chief is selected, the post said. The post did not elaborate on whether Thomas voluntarily resigned or was fired...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-12-11/ucla-police-chief-blasted-for-security-lapses-that-led-to-protest-violence-is-out>.



From the UCOP independent review of the UCLA policing issues of last spring:

...[The] expectation that UCLA PD remain less visible and engaged with the community was demonstrated in UCLA's response to the encampment. Encampment members... made clear throughout the encampment period they did not want to engage with police or to see police in or around the encampment, and the UCLA administration was responsive to these requests.

Although there are some conflicting accounts about how this translated into direction to police – with the UCLA PD reporting that they were told to stay entirely off campus, while

some administrators told us that the police were not told to stay off campus but rather were told to stay out of sight – there is general agreement across most accounts that police were instructed to remain wholly unseen by protesters. This played out during the encampment period in many ways and instances, such as when protesters objected to officers' presence in a nearby building, where they had positioned themselves to gain information about the state of the encampment, administrators instructed officers to leave. UCLA PD therefore was handicapped in its ability to gain information about the encampment, its size, whether there were any weapons within the encampment, and whether protesters around the encampment were posing a growing danger to those within the encampment. When administrators instructed the police department to engage, the police lacked critical information that could have helped it determine the lowest level intervention necessary to accomplish its goals...

Full report at <https://ia600402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/LAPD%20report%20on%20UCLA%2011-5-2024.pdf>.

To summarize, the UCLA police chief is told by unnamed "administrators" to have his officers stay away from the encampment because those in the encampment didn't want to see police.

Then, when an incident occurred, the UCLA police weren't there to deal with it. So, the response to all of this is to fire the police chief. And the "administrators" presumably are untouched.

Any questions?

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:06 AM

No comments:



Labels: UCLA

Yesterday's UCLA Forecast



From a news release: ...*The shadow of uncertainty is cast over the California economy, and the winter 2024 UCLA Anderson Forecast for California reflects the unknowns. As in the national forecast, tariffs, immigration policy, regulatory policy and tax policy figure heavily in the California forecast. Immigration policy will likely have two effects on California. The first is a withdrawal of millions of undocumented workers from the U.S. labor force, either through the deportation process or because they have voluntarily stopped working in the face of high risk of deportation. The second concerns H1B visas to work in the tech industry. The emphasis the new administration is expected to place on growth in technology suggests that H1B visas will benefit California's tech industry.*

With respect to taxes and regulation, the Forecast assumes that, to the extent that they happen, they will have only minor impact and will take time to be felt. In the U.S. forecast, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cuts that expire in 2025 are expected to be renewed, as are some smaller tax cuts through the next two years. Assumptions about Trump administration policies is based on the Forecast economists' guesses and not on any data other than pronouncements Trump made during the presidential campaign, and his recent appointments of key personnel for the incoming administration. It is important to keep in mind that political exigencies can radically alter promised policy.



With these assumptions in place, the California forecast expects the state's economy to grow at about the same rate as the country's in 2025 and 2026.

The unemployment rate for the fourth quarter of 2024 is expected to average 5.3%, while the averages for 2025 and 2026 are expected to be 5.5% and 5.0%, respectively. The UCLA Anderson forecast expects the 2025 and 2026 total employment growth rates to be -0.7% and 1.6%. At the same time, non-farm payroll jobs are expected to grow at rates of 1.5% and 1.3% during the same two years. Real personal income is forecast to grow by 2.3% in 2025 and 2.6% in 2026.

Despite higher interest rates, the continued demand for a limited housing stock, coupled with state policies inducing new home building, should result in the beginning of a recovery this year in the housing sector, followed by slow but solid growth in new home production thereafter. The forecast anticipates new units to grow to 143,000 by the end of 2026. Based on this level of home building, the private sector's prospect of building out of the housing affordability problem over the next three years is nil...

Full release at <https://www.anderson.ucla.edu/news-and-events/press-releases/incoming-administrations-policies-signal-new-economic-uncertainty>.

UPDATE: The video of the Forecast program is at:

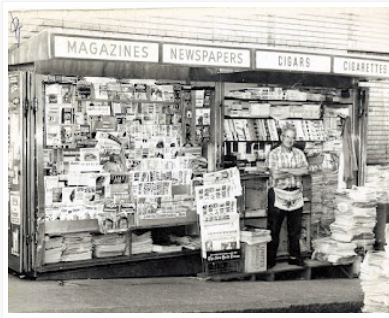


Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbpRv5pt5OE>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [UCLA](#)

UC Labor News



From the [LA Times](#): *A University of California workers union was successful in its fight to oust an Orange County Democrat from the state Senate after he did not support a bill it backed in the Legislature. But in doing so, the union may have helped elect a Republican who has a history of opposing organized labor.*

Democratic Sen. Josh Newman of Fullerton lost reelection after American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299 spent more than \$1

million supporting candidates to replace him in the primary and later in ads bashing him and tying him to high gas prices and crime.

Although the union, which represents service workers across UC campuses, did not support Republican Steven Choi, a conservative from Irvine, its decision to oppose a largely pro-labor Democrat probably helped cinch the race in a close contest...

[Newman] believes that the union's campaign against him was spurred by his reluctance to support a bill last year that would have put a measure on the ballot asking voters to enshrine basic labor standards for all UC employees. The bill was sponsored by AFSCME Local 3299 and fizzled before it ever made it to the governor's desk, facing a long list of opponents who said it was unnecessary and unfairly singled out one group of public workers...

It's unlikely that Choi will have much influence in the California Capitol, where Republicans struggle to get any major policies signed into law. He thinks that the union that targeted Newman knew that and chose to risk helping elect a candidate it disagrees with in order to send a message to other Democrats about what happens when you oppose them.

"I think this was a power play to show how strong they are," Choi said. "And what kind of penalty they can play against uncooperative legislators."

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-12-09/a-california-union-helped-oust-an-oc-democrat-from-the-senate-an-anti-labor-conservative-took-his-place>.




Those who know California political history will also know that raw assertions of power don't always end happily. The name Artie Samish won't be familiar to many people. But Samish was a highly influential "liquor lobbyist" in the 1940s. At one point, to illustrate how influential he was, he posed for a photo in a national magazine with a ventriloquist's dummy representing the state legislature. The idea was to show he could make the legislature do whatever he wanted.

Needless to say, members of the legislature were not pleased to see the photo and the incident led to a series in events culminating in Samish going

to prison.

Sometimes, even things that are true need not be said nor demonstrated.

You can read a brief summary of this affair at <https://cal170.library.ca.gov/a-dummy-brings-down-an-empire/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: 

Labels: [legislature](#), [politics](#), [UC](#)

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